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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,035	07/09/2003	Van Kirk Fehr	10.277.002	3870

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Bradford Kile
Suite 475
655 15th Street
Washington, DC 20005

EXAMINER

WOO, STELLA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,035

Applicant(s)

FEHR, VAN KIRK

Examiner

Stella L. Woo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

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- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro et al. (US 4,760,593, hereinafter "Shapiro") in view of Sands (US 5,862,201).

Shapiro discloses a personal alarm system comprising:

a base unit (subscriber station 10);

a POTS telephone handset and telephone keypad (telephone 22 connected to subscriber 10; Figure 1); and

telephone circuitry operable to establish two-way telephone service over a twisted pair of POTS wiring (col. 5, lines 25-27).

Shapiro differs from claim 1 in that it does not teach telephone circuitry to establish two-way wireless telephone service and control electronics to selectively switch between POTS service and wireless telephone service. However, Sands teaches the desirability of providing within an alarm system a backup communicator (comprising a cellular transceiver 28 and cellular interface 30) and a control panel 32 for selectively switching between the telephone line 48 and the cellular backup communicator (col. 3, lines 16-31) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such a cellular backup communicator and

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control for switching, as taught by Sands, within the alarm system of Shapiro so that an alarm call can still be placed in the event the telephone line is inaccessible.

Regarding claim 2, in Shapiro, speakerphone 20 can be activated by a control signal transmitted from the central monitoring station 14 (col. 5, lines 41-54) or under the control of the subscriber station 10 (col. 5, lines 23-38).

Regarding claim 5, a help button 18 is provided (col. 4, lines 24-33; col. 5, lines 13-15; col. 8, lines 34-40; col. 10, lines 33-40).

3. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro in view of Sands, as applied to claims 1-2 and 5 above, and further in view of Otero (US 2003/0169852 A1).

The combination of Shapiro and Sands differs from claims 3-4 in that it does not teach activating by voice command. However, Otero teaches the desirability of activating an emergency speakerphone by voice command (page 2, paragraph 36) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such voice activation, as taught by Otero, within the combination of Shapiro and Sands so that a user in need of emergency and unable to reach the speakerphone base or unable to press the help button can place an emergency call simply by saying the voice command.

4. Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro in view of Sands, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Betcher, III (US 6,163,249).

The combination of Shapiro and Sands differs from claims 6 and 10 in that it does not teach a level sensor. However, Betcher, III teaches the desirability of using a level sensor (tilt actuator detects when an object has been repositioned; col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 6) in an alert

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system such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such a level sensor, as taught by Betcher, III within the combination of Shapiro and Sands in order to provide another convenient means of automatically placing an emergency call, such as for an incapacitated individual who cannot easily depress a help button.

5. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro in view of Sands, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Chen (US 6,060,994).

The combination of Shapiro and Sands differs from claims 7-9 in that it does not teach detecting a dead line condition of the handset and alerting the emergency service of the dead line condition. However, Chen teaches an alarm system which informs a remote administrant of a detected dead line condition of a telephone set (col. 5, line 13) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such event reporting, as taught by Chen, within the combination of Shapiro and Sands so that an emergency condition, such as a handset which remains off-hook, can be detected and reported.

Regarding claim 9, when an emergency event is detected, a wireless telephone signal is established with the resident (col. 7, lines 35-38).

Conclusion

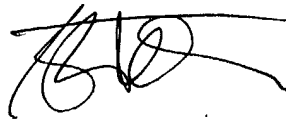
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schulze teaches activating an emergency telephone call by knocking over a telephone handset. Davis, Dop and Peddicord et al. show other alarm systems which provide both wired and wireless telephony connection.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella L. Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-4395. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Stella L. Woo
Primary Examiner
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